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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

PELHAM, JOSEPH MOORE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3742

DATE MAILED: 08/31/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/623,877

Applicant(s)

MOTAKEF ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph M Pelham

Art Unit

3742

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 31-35 and 40-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 31-35 and 40-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 3742

The Examiner acknowledges Applicant's Response submitted 6/4/04. Claims 31-35 and 40-44 are now pending. Applicant mentions the submission of a Terminal Disclaimer in the Response, but the document was not received.

The Examiner notes that claims 31-35 should have been rejected over the admitted prior art and the prior art of record in the previous Office action, which rejection has been made herein; he sincerely regrets any inconvenience.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 31-35 and 40-44 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-25 of U.S. Patent No. 6624390. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the instant claims merely broaden the scope of the parent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 31-35 and 40-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the acknowledged prior art in view of U.S. Patent 3033968 to Julie.

The acknowledged prior art, at pages 2-3 of the instant specification, discloses the problems, such as plastic deformation, associated with non-uniform heating in crystal annealing furnaces. The acknowledged prior art does not explicitly disclose a thermally conductive inner housing encased within and in contact with a thermally insulative outer housing, both housings formed of either carbon or graphite, control means to prevent plastic deformation by maintaining shear stress below $0.5e^{(990/T)}$ MPa, the thermally insulative outer housing encased within another thermally conductive housing which is displaced from the thermally insulative outer housing, or a heating element outside the thermally insulative outer housing.

Art Unit: 3742

Referring to Figures 1 and 7, column 2, lines 42-52, and column 5, lines 3-21, Julie teaches that a thermally conductive inner housing (2, 62) encased within and in contact with a thermally insulative outer housing (3, 63), and a heating element (5, 64) outside the thermally insulative outer housing results in excellent chamber heating uniformity. Julie discloses control means (Figure 8) to maintain heating uniformity. The examiner notes that carbon or graphite have long been utilized as furnace housing materials, and would therefore have been considered as a matter of course and chosen strictly in accord with workpiece and process parameters. It would have been obvious to adapt the housing structure of Julie, insofar as it teaches the relative thermal conductivities of the housings, to a crystal annealing furnace since Julie teaches such to enhance heating uniformity. Although the acknowledged prior art is not explicitly disclosed to teach temperature sensing means, such are certainly well known and necessary means to control the device; moreover, Julie discloses sensor means 66.

Further, the control arrangement of the prior art in view of Julie would appear to effectively maintain the heating uniformity for which it was intended, and hence would appear inherently to prevent plastic deformation by maintaining shear stress below $0.5e^{(990/T)}$ MPa; and another thermally conductive housing displaced from the thermally insulative outer housing would have been obvious since such is the conventional form of a furnace exterior, which among other benefits avails to protect the furnace.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph M Pelham whose telephone number is 703-308-1709. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

8/30/04


JOSEPH PELHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER